



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF  
FOOD & AGRICULTURE

A. G. Kawamura, Secretary

July 29, 2008

DMS Notice  
D – 08 – 4

Discard: Retain

TO WEIGHTS AND MEASURES OFFICIALS

**SUBJECT: Acceptable Abbreviations for Indicating and Recording Devices**

On January 1, 2008, amendments to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Handbook 44 expanded the references to abbreviations for use with weighing and measuring devices. As these changes are adopted by reference into the California Code of Regulations, they are now in effect.

For International Systems of Units (SI) abbreviations, refer to Table 1 in Section 1.10. General Code G-S.5.6.1., and National Institute of Standards and Technology Special Publication SP811 "Guide for the Use of the International System of Unit (SI)".

Appendix C of the Handbook contains abbreviations for SI and US Customary units. For easier reference we have listed in the attached table the most common abbreviations for customary units from Appendix C. Some abbreviations, such as units of temperature, time, power, and count, are not found in the appendix. Additionally, some units are not listed as they are rarely used for commercial transactions. For abbreviations not found in the table or the publications referenced, please contact the Division of Measurement Standards.

Devices manufactured before January 1, 2008 may continue to display and record the abbreviation of the unit of measure as indicated in their respective certificates of approval/conformance or, if installed, as accepted during the initial examination. However, any device manufactured or modified on or after January 1, 2008, may only use the specified abbreviations. This may result in a need for re-evaluation and update of existing National Type Evaluation Certificates of Conformance or California Certificates of Approval. Please contact California Type Evaluation personnel if you believe this is necessary.

Note that these requirements do not apply to abbreviations on pre-printed forms, to handwritten values, or to automated systems not integrated with commercial weighing and measuring device systems.



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If you have any questions, please contact Gary Castro, Program Supervisor, at (916) 229-3049 or via e-mail [gcastro@cdfa.ca.gov](mailto:gcastro@cdfa.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Edmund E. Williams".

Edmund E. Williams  
Director

Attachment

cc: Kevin Masuhara, Director, County Liaison

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 Attachment

<u>Name of Unit</u>	<u>Common Use Symbol</u>	<u>Representation</u>		
		<u>Lower Case</u>	<u>Upper Case</u>	<u>Acceptable</u>
assay ton	AT	n/a	AT	
barrel	bbl	bbl	n/a	
bushel	bu	bu	n/a	
carat	c	c	n/a	
chain	ch	ch	n/a	
cord	cd	cd	n/a	
cubic foot	ft <sup>3</sup>	ft <sup>3</sup>	FT <sup>3</sup>	cu ft
cubic inch	in <sup>3</sup>	in <sup>3</sup>	IN <sup>3</sup>	cu in
cubic yard	yd <sup>3</sup>	yd <sup>3</sup>	YD <sup>3</sup>	cu yd
dram avdp	dr avdp	dr avdp	n/a	
dry pint	dry pt	dry pt	n/a	
dry quart	dry qt	dry qt	n/a	
fluid dram	fl dr	fl dr	n/a	fl dr
foot	ft	ft	FT	
furlong	fur	fur	n/a	
gallon	gal	gal	GAL	
gill	gi	gi	n/a	
grain	gr	gr	n/a	
gross hundredweight	gross cwt	gross cwt	GROSS CWT	
inch	in	in	IN	
link	li	li	n/a	
liquid quart	qt	qt	QT	
minim	min	min	Z	
ounce	oz	oz	OZ	
ounce troy	oz t	oz t	OZ T	
peck	pk	pk	n/a	
pennyweight	dwt	dwt	DWT	
pint	pt	pt	PT	
pound	lb	lb	LB	
rod	rd	rd	n/a	
short hundredweight	net cwt	net cwt	n/a	
square foot	ft <sup>2</sup>	ft <sup>2</sup>	FT <sup>2</sup>	sq ft
square inch	in <sup>2</sup>	in <sup>2</sup>	IN <sup>2</sup>	sq in
square mile	mi <sup>2</sup>	mi <sup>2</sup>	n/a	sq mi
square rod	rd <sup>2</sup>	rd <sup>2</sup>	n/a	sq rd
square yard	yd <sup>2</sup>	yd <sup>2</sup>	YD <sup>2</sup>	sq yd
ton (net or short)	ton	ton	n/a	ton
pound troy or apothecary	lb t or lb ap	lb t or lb ap		
yard	yd	yd	YD	

Note: If the name of a unit is more appropriate than the unit symbol, the name of the unit should be spelled out in full.